

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00764 271117 Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 HEW-08 OPIC-12 TRSE-00

L-03 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 NSC-10

CIEP-02 SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 PA-03

USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /132 W
----- 030216

R 271002 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9282

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 764

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, CE

SUBJ: PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA

REF STATE 53459

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH WARREN WILLIAMS, PFIZER REPRESENTATIVE HERE. MARCH 23 MEETING SAW BIBILE LAY DOWN LAW TO LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING MEMBERS CEYLON PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSN (CPMA) IN ACRIMONIOUS DISCUSSION. GSL POLICY CALLS FOR GSL TO HANDLE ALL IMPORTS AND DISTRIBUTION, DECIDE WHICH MANUFACTURERS WILL PRODUCE WHICH PRODUCTS, AND PURCHASE RAW MATERIALS ON WORLDWIDE TENDER. DRUGS TO BE SOLD UNDER GENERIC NAMES. CPMA CONDUCTING PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST SPC DECISION. EMBASSY BELIEVES SPC INTENDS PROCEED WITH PLANS IN DOCTRINAIRE MANNER, BUT ONE ARGUMENT WHICH MIGHT INFLUENCE OTHERS IN GSL AGAINST MOVE IS POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON FUTURE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. SPC ACTIONS APPEAR TO LEAVE LITTLE SCOPE FOR PRIVATE DRUG BUSINESS, AND WILLIAMS UNOFFICIALLY SAYS PFIZER WOULD HAVE TO PULL OUT OF SRI LANKA. AMBASSADOR PLANS RAISE ISSUE WITH INDUSTRIES MINISTER SUBASINGHA. END SUMMARY.

2. PFIZER GENERAL MANAGER, WARREN W. WILLIAMS, BRIEFED AMB 21 MARCH ON STATE PHARMACEUTICAL CORP. (SPC) EFFORTS IMPOSE
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00764 271117 Z

WILL ON SRI LANKA PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY.

3. SPC CHAIRMAN BIBILE MARCH 23 HELD MEETING MENTIONED RHE COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP). THIS LEAVES TWO STAMOKAPS AMONG REMAINING SEVEN MEMBERS OF FRANKFURT JUSO BOARD. ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT LOCAL JUSO CONFERENCE MARCH THIRTY- ONE SHOULD GIVE MEASURE OF RESIDUAL STAMOKAP STRENGTH. HARLAN

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973COLOMB00764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730339/aaaaiwi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 53459
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971231
Subject: PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SRI LANKA
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, CE
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005